

2018 Water Strategy Framework for Implementation

Priority Area: Ensure safe drinking water

The Water Strategy includes a set of recommendations to ensure safe drinking water. The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) and the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) work together to ensure safe drinking water for all Michigan residents and visitors and to protect public health. Many regulatory and voluntary programs and activities are currently in place at the local and state level to achieve these goals. Ensuring safe drinking water and protecting public health depend on the following activities: protection of source water, proper treatment of drinking water, and maintenance of distribution systems and infrastructure.

In April 2016, Governor Snyder announced the formation of the 21st Century Infrastructure Commission. Its charge is to identify long-term strategies to help ensure Michigan's infrastructure is safe and efficient now and into the future. Sound, modern infrastructure is vital to the health and well-being of the people of Michigan. The MDEQ and the MDHHS are assisting the 21st Century Infrastructure Commission in data gathering for assessments and reports. The MDEQ and the MDHHS will further define key actions necessary to support investments in drinking water infrastructure and protection efforts based on findings of the 21st Century Infrastructure Commission.

Emerging contaminants have arisen as a major focus for 2018, not just in drinking water but in all media relevant to protecting human and environmental health. In November 2017, the Governor established the Michigan PFAS Action Response Team (MPART) to accelerate management of one specific group of emerging contaminants (Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances, or PFAS), and in January 2018, the MDEQ announced Part 201 groundwater and soil cleanup criteria and screening levels for PFAS. Michigan agencies will continue working together to holistically address these issues.

MAJOR INITIATIVES

- The MDEQ will sample all community water supplies and all schools with non-transient, noncommunity water supplies for the presence of PFAS compounds in their source water.
- The MDEQ and MDHHS will complete their collaborative effort to develop private well owner guidance materials, including contaminant fact sheets, well owner stewardship materials, water well testing resources, and well maintenance factsheets.
- The MDHHS will continue the Center for Disease Control (CDC) grant-funded private drinking water program effort to identify gaps in state and local drinking water programs. By 2020, MDHHS will launch an outreach program based on the findings.
- The MDEQ will continue work on the State Asset Management Pilot Project to better understand and define the role asset management plays throughout the state's water infrastructure.
- The MDEQ will focus resources to ensure that community water supplies serving more than 1000 customers have an Asset Management Program.
- The MDEQ will provide grant funding to assist communities and community water suppliers in the development of source water protection programs.

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- The MDEQ will introduce revised legislation for a statewide sanitary code for wastewater in 2018.
- The MDEQ will establish revised lead and copper monitoring and exposure reduction rules for public water supplies.
- The OGL will work with the MDEQ Remediation and Redevelopment Division to develop a framework for assessing the economic impact of various management actions and policy options for risk management of contaminated of groundwater aquifers.
- The MDEQ, MDHHS, MDNR, and MDARD will enhance and further integrate their current work with the efforts of the MPART in all media relevant to human and aquatic environmental health.

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